

V. *Part of a Letter from Mr. Macky, Professor of History, to Mr. Mac Laurin, Professor of Mathematics in the University of Edinburgh, and by him communicated to the President of the ROYAL SOCIETY; being an Extract from the Books of the Town-Council of Edinburgh, relating to a Disease there, supposed to be Venereal, in the Year 1497.*

Read March
17. 1742-3.

IF the Venereal Disease was never known in *Europe* till the Siege of *Naples* 1495, it must have made a very quick Progress through *Europe* in a short time; for in 1497, I find it raging in *Edinburgh*, and our King and his Council terribly alarmed at this contagious Distemper, as appears from a Proclamation of King *James* the IVth, in the Records of the Town-Council of *Edinburgh*. The Minute of Council is dated the 22d of *September*. I have taken a Copy of it for your Amusement, and, if you please, you may communicate it to the SOCIETY. I have pretty nearly observed the old Spelling, except in Numbers.

“ 22. *Sept.* 1497.

“ **I**T is our Soverane Lords Will and the Command
“ of the Lordis of his Counsaile send to the Provost
“ and Baillies within this bur̄ that this Proclamation
“ followand be put till execution for the eschewing
“ of the greit appearand danger of the Infection of
“ his Leiges fra this contagious sickness callit the
“ *Grandgor*

“ *Grandgor* and the greit uther Skayth that may
 “ occur to his Leiges and Inhabitans within this burt;
 “ that is to say, we charge straitly and commands
 “ be the Auhority above writtin, that all manner of
 “ personis being within the freedom of this burt
 “ quilks are infectit or hes been infectit uncurit with
 “ this said contagious plague callit the *Grandgor*, de-
 “ voyd, red and pafs furt of this Town and compeir
 “ apon the sandis of *Leith* at ten hours before none
 “ and thair fall thai have and synd Botis reddie in the
 “ havin ordanit to them be the Officeris of this burt
 “ reddely furneist with victuals to have thame to the
 “ *Inche* *, and thair to remane quhill God proviyd for
 “ thair Health: And that all uther personis the quilks
 “ taks upon thame to hale the said contagious infir-
 “ mitie and taks the cure thairof that they devoyd
 “ and pafs with thame sua that nane of thair personis
 “ quhilks taks sic cure upon thame use the samyn
 “ cure within this burt in pns nor peirt any manner
 “ of way. And wha sa beis foundin infectit and not
 “ passand to the *Inche* as said is be *Mononday* at the
 “ Sone ganging to, and in lykways the said personis
 “ that takis the sd Cure of sanitie upon thame gif
 “ they will use the samyn thai and ilk ane of thame
 “ falle be brynt on the cheik with the marking Irne
 “ that thai may be kennit in tym to cum and thair-
 “ after gif any of tham remanis that thai fall be
 “ banist but favors.”

* An Island in the *Frith* of *Edinburgh* over-against *Leith*.